Cultural delegation sent abroad by ICCR

7975. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cultural delega tions and troupes sent abroad by the ICCR during 1994-95 and the countries visited;

(b) what is the expenditure incurred in each of the delegation and the troupe;

(c) how many delegations and troupes were invited to visit India, the names of the country and the amount of expenditure on each of the delegation; and

(d) what is the total expenditure incurred by ICCR on student exchange programme and the number of students covered under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) 30 cultural delegations/troupes were sent abroad during 1994-95. Details as well as expenditure incurred are given in Annexure 'A' [See Appendix 173, Annexure 182].

(e) A total of 23 cultural troupes delegations visited India during 1994-95 at the invitation of ICCR. Details of the delegations and amount of expenditure spent on each of the delegation are given at Annexure *"B' [See* Appendix 173, Annexure No. 183]

(d) Total expenditure incurred by ICCR tor foreign students during 1994-95 is Rs. 4.48 crores. This covers a total of 1301 foreign students studying in India under various scholarship schemes administered by ICCR from its budget grant.

Militants threat to attack Indian cities following Charare Sbarief incident

7976. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up the issue of threats given by militant organisations backed by Pakistan, to attack Indian cities following the burning down of Charare Sharief shrine, with foreign countries and also in the U.N.O,.

(to) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government also propose to take strict measures to beef up the security of people and their properties, in view of these threats?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have apprised the international community at the political, diplomatic and official levels of the threats posed to India's territorial integrity and national security by terrorist organisations based in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Government deeply regret that such terrorist elements are allowed to operate from Pakistan. We have drawn the attention of the international community, especially in the context of the Charar-e-Sharif incident, to the dangers inherent in Pakistan's active and continued sup-Port ot trans-border terrorism.

(c) Government are firmly resolved to defeat the designs of the terrorists, will remain ever vigilant and take all necessary measures to safeguard the unity and integrity of the nation as well as the. lives and properties of its citizens-